

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2014 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-037-2014
Draft No.: 2
Committee: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
Date: 07/15/2014
Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Patterson, Davis, Lehman and Turner)

Staff provided a summary of the legislation and referral comments that were received. CB-37-2014 adds Subtitle 12, Division 2, Subdivision 4 to the Prince George's County Code to establish the SNAP to Health Program (the "Program") to be administered by the Prince George's County Health Department and to provide for initial program funding, grant assistance, outreach and advertising for farmer's markets.

The Program shall provide technical assistance to farmer's markets in acquiring the technology needed to accept benefits under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). The Program will also provide training to farmer's markets to assist managers in utilizing a system that accepts and processes SNAP benefits and with reporting requirements.

One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) in initial funding is approved for FY 2015 with the Health Department establishing guidelines to implement provisions of this bill by January 1, 2015.

The Health Officer indicated that this bill will offer increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables to the community and aligns with the Health Department's mission to create a healthier County. The Health Officer further stated that there are currently 21 farmer's markets in the County of which six (6) have the technology to except SNAP. The outreach efforts and educational component is instrumental in the success of this program to the SNAP recipients and the general population in making the citizens aware of the farmer's markets in the county.

The Director of the Department of Social Services provided written comments indicating that their position is from a marketing perspective to their customers.

The Committee considered CB-37-2014 Draft 2 with amendments that were merely clarifying language.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that CB-37-2014 if enacted will result in a

negative impact to the County of \$100,000, which is the amount of the funding appropriated in the FY 2015 budget.

The Office of the County Executive has reviewed the legislation and has provided favorable recommendation.